


Thorndike Place - Hearing Feb. 1 Response

Coalition to Save the Mugar Wetlands <savethemugarwetlands@gmail.com>

Wed 2/7/2024 7:59 PM

To: ConComm <ConComm@town.arlington.ma.us>

Cc: Jim Feeney <jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us>; SBadmIn <SBadmIn@town.arlington.ma.us>; info@arlingtonlandtrust.org <info@arlingtonlandtrust.org>

 1 attachments (31 KB)

Con Comm Letter 224.docx;

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To Members of the Conservation Commission:

Attached please find our response to the Feb. 1 hearing of the proposed Thorndike Place project.

Thank you,

Jeanette Cummings
32 Dorothy Rd.

Julie DiBiase
29 Littlejohn St.

On Behalf of the Coalition to Save the Mugar Wetlands



February 7, 2024

To Members of the Conservation Commission:

After attending the Conservation Commission hearing on Thursday, February 1st regarding the proposed Thorndike Place development, we would like to address several alarming issues raised by Hydrologist, Scott Horsley.

1. Inconsistent Groundwater Levels

Questions surrounding the accuracy of the groundwater levels provided by the Applicant are concerning due to the fact that this may have a direct impact on the function of the proposed stormwater management system, leading to increased groundwater levels and surface flooding.

2. Groundwater Mounding

The Applicant's calculations of groundwater mounding significantly underestimates the effects associated with the proposed stormwater infiltration system. The calculations provided in the Stormwater Report for the primary infiltration structure were based on a duration of 0.046 days or 1.1 hours, whereas MADEP Stormwater Standards require a minimum of 24-hours. The inadequacy of the Applicant's model clearly does not represent the full impact of a 24-hour storm event, whereby the use of the longer infiltration time will result in significantly higher groundwater mounding than reported.

3. Well Monitoring

Questions remain regarding the monitoring of the wells installed on the site. Ideally, such wells should be monitored in the spring when groundwater is the highest. *We ask the Con Comm to confirm that the wells are being regularly monitored, into the spring months, that the data gathered is being submitted and made publicly available.*

4. Climate Change

Neighbors continue to voice their concerns regarding ongoing flooding issues that will only be exacerbated by climate change. *The Con Comm needs to request detailed data and a plan for storm water mitigation that also addresses the **expected impacts of climate change.***

5. Recommendations

We respectfully ask the Con Comm to follow all of Scott Horsley's recommendations detailed in his report.

In conclusion, Scott Horsley provided extensive information concerning the validity of the data submitted by the Applicant. **With the long history of flooding and vulnerability of this site, every means available should be utilized to provide accurate information** - the protection of existing homes, property and wetlands are at stake. The question, **"Where is the water going to go?"** still remains....

Thank you on Behalf of the Coalition to Save the Mugar Wetlands,

Jeanette Cummings, 32 Dorothy Rd.

Julie DiBiase, 29 Littlejohn St.

Cc: James Feeney, Arlington Town Manager
David Morgan, Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent
Arlington Select Board
Arlington Land Trust